

VICTORIAN SENIOR SECONDARY REFORM: STUDENT ADVISORY PANEL

Apply for the Panel to help set up Victorian students for long-term success during their time at secondary school!

BACKGROUND

What is the panel?

The Senior Secondary Pathways Student Advisory Panel is a new advisory group established by the Victorian Student Representative Council (VicSRC), with the support of the Victorian Department of Education. The panel is designed to give students an opportunity to talk directly with government about how to make senior secondary schooling better for every student in Victoria.

The panel will have a special focus on how to make sure as many students as possible get access to the opportunities they need to succeed once they leave school, whether they want to do further studies, go straight to work, or are still exploring their options.

The work of the panel will help to guide the Department of Education as part of their [ongoing reforms to senior secondary schooling](#), which are focused on providing more students with pathways that suit their interests and goals.

The panel will be made up of 14 secondary school students from across Victoria who share a diverse range of experiences at school.

OVERVIEW

What would the panel discuss?

Students on the panel will have discussions and participate in workshops with VicSRC and the Department of Education. The conversations will focus on ways the government can help students to succeed during their senior secondary schooling by making the available opportunities better and more accessible for students. The topics of the panel may include:

1. How well the current senior secondary pathways are supporting students, including:
 - a. The integrated senior secondary certificate ('one VCE')
 - b. The VCE Vocational Major
 - c. The Victorian Pathways Certificate
 - d. VDSS (VET Delivered to School Students)

- e. School-based traineeships and apprenticeships
 - f. Career education
2. How new programs and other initiatives which are planned by the government can work in the best interests of students.
 3. How senior secondary schooling can be improved even further by addressing current concerns and sharing ideas for the future.
 4. Other related topics.

What would my responsibilities be?

Time commitments

Students should expect to spend up to 40 hours participating in activities related to the panel throughout the course of the year.

Each meeting of the panel will run for about three hours, and there will be four meetings throughout the year.

Each meeting of the panel will take place during the school holiday period between each term (see the meeting schedule below for more information).

For each meeting of the panel, there will also be a 'pre-briefing' meeting, which will only be attended by panellists and VicSRC staff. These meetings will run for two hours.

These meetings will be an opportunity for panellists to learn more about what will be discussed during the upcoming meeting and ask questions to ensure they feel comfortable and prepared.

Training and upskilling will also be provided to panellists as part of the 'pre-briefing' meetings to help build confidence and expertise around the topics being discussed in the meetings.

Attending meetings

Each of the four meetings of the panel will happen in-person at VicSRC's office in North Melbourne. VicSRC will be able to support regional students by covering the cost of travelling to Melbourne for these meetings if needed.

Each of the 'pre-briefing' meetings will happen online via Zoom.

Being able to attend all of these meetings is the most important thing to consider if you're thinking about applying for the panel. You should check with your parents, carers, or guardians to make sure they can support you in attending the meetings if needed.

Professional expectations

Participating on the panel is a great opportunity for students to build knowledge and confidence in a professional setting. VicSRC doesn't expect students to have any prior work or professional experience, but students who participate in the panel should come ready to learn more about working in a professional environment and to dedicate the time needed to contribute to the panel in a meaningful and ongoing way.

Expertise

Don't worry – panellists are not expected to be policy experts, or to have a deep understanding of the education system.

Instead, the panel is all about gathering students who are eager to share their own experiences, reflections, and recommendations with VicSRC and the Department of Education about how they envision improvements to the senior secondary school system in Victoria.

How much will I be reimbursed?

Students who participate in the panel will be reimbursed for their time and expertise. The reimbursement is called an honorarium, which is a payment made in recognition of voluntary services provided to the panel.

Student panellists will be reimbursed \$25 for each hour they spend participating in the panel or related engagements, like training and pre-briefings. Additional reimbursement will be provided to cover travel costs for those students who need it.

Meeting schedule

Engagement	Prospective date range*
Initial meeting – meet and greet	12 February – 16 February 2024 (<i>online</i>)
Term 1 Meeting pre-brief Training and upskilling (session one)	25 March – 31 March 2024 (<i>online</i>)
Term 1 Panel Meeting	1 April – 5 April 2024 (<i>in-person in Melbourne</i>)
Term 2 Meeting pre-brief Training and upskilling (session two)	24 June – 30 June 2024 (<i>online</i>)
Term 2 Panel Meeting	1 July – 5 July 2024 (<i>in-person in Melbourne</i>)
Term 3 Meeting pre-brief Training and upskilling (session three)	16 September – 22 September 2024 (<i>online</i>)
Term 3 Panel Meeting	23 September – 27 September 2024 (<i>in-person in Melbourne</i>)
Term 4 Meeting pre-brief Training and upskilling (session four)	6 January – 12 January 2025 (<i>online</i>)
Term 4 Panel Meeting	13 January – 17 January 2025 (<i>in-person in Melbourne</i>)
* <i>Timing is subject to change.</i>	



ELIGIBILITY

VicSRC is looking for Victorian secondary students who have chosen lots of different pathways for their senior secondary school journey. As part of the panel, there are opportunities for students from government (state), independent, and Catholic schools, as well as for students who are from Melbourne and from regional Victoria. VicSRC are looking for the following students to participate in the panel:

- One student studying VCE at a government school, from Melbourne.
- One student studying VCE at a Catholic school, from anywhere in Victoria.
- Two students studying VCE Vocational Major (VM) at government schools, one from Melbourne and one from regional Victoria.
- Two students studying VCE Vocational Major (VM) at independent schools, one from Melbourne and one from regional Victoria.
- One student studying VCE including VET at a government school, from regional Victoria.
- One student studying VCE including VET at an independent school, from Melbourne.
- One student studying VCE including VET at a Catholic school, from anywhere in Victoria.
- Two students studying the Victorian Pathways Certificate at government schools, one from Melbourne and one from regional Victoria.
- One student studying a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship at a government school, from anywhere in Victoria.
- One student studying a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship at a Catholic school, from regional Victoria.
- One student with disability who is doing any vocational studies at a government school, from either anywhere in Victoria.

If you meet one (or more) of the criteria above, and you are confident that you will have the time and availability to participate in all of the meetings of the panel, then you are eligible to apply!

HOW TO APPLY

Once you double-check to make sure that you're eligible, you can go ahead and apply by filling out [this online form](#) (or head to <https://forms.office.com/r/2rZwpah3AZ>). Please note that applications will close on **20 December, 2023**.

What happens after I apply?

Once you apply, you'll be contacted by VicSRC to set up a brief and informal online meeting to learn more about you and your experiences at school.

After that, VicSRC will consider all of the applications, and we will inform all applicants whether their application was successful by late January 2024.

What if I have more questions?

If you have any questions, or if you'd like to talk more about this opportunity, please reach out to VicSRC on the contact details below.

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